

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PORT O 00414 182158Z

66

ACTION PPTE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 EB-07 COME-00 /019 W

----- 009787

P 182138Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8822

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 0414

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPAS, TD

SUBJECT: ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

REF: 75 PORT OF SPAIN 0592,

SUMMARY: INCREASING INCIDENCE OF AIRLINE PASSENGERS FROM USA ARRIVING IN TRINIDAD WITHOUT PASSPORTS AS REQUIRED BY GOTT IS CAUSING HARDSHIP FOR TRAVELERS AND STRAINING PATIENCE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. IN VIEW OF IMMINENT SURGE OF TRAVEL IN CONNECTION WITH PRE-LENTEN CARNIVAL SEASON, REQUEST DEPARTMENT AGAIN IMPRESS UPON AIRLINES AND TRAVEL AGENCIES REQUIREMENT THAT TRAVELERS HAVE VALID PASSPORT IN POSSESSION IN ORDER TO BE ADMITTED TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. END SUMMARY.

1. GOTT IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN UNIFORMLY APPLYING THE REQUIREMENT THAT PERSONS ARRIVING IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO BE IN POSSESSION OF VALID PASSPORTS. AUTHORITIES AT PORTS OF ENTRY DO NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO MAKE EXCEPTION TO THAT RULE.

2. EMBASSY HAS BEEN APPROACHED ON NUMBER OF OCCASIONS IN PAST MONTHS BY AMERICANS APPEALING FOR ASSISTANCE AFTER BEING REFUSED ADMISSION. IN SOME CASES, IT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE FOR THE EMBASSY OFFICER, AFTER ASCERTAINING THAT USC HAS PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP, TO TELEPHONE ONE OF THREE CHIEF IMMIGRATION OFFICERS OF GOTT, CONFIRMING THAT PASSPORT COULD BE ISSUED TO THE TRAVELER ON THE NEXT WORKDAY OF THE EMBASSY, AND TO GET AN AFFIRMATIVE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PORT O 00414 182158Z

DECISION FROM THAT OFFICER. THE PROCEDURE HAS BEEN THAT

THE TRAVELER WAS ADMITTED FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS -- SUFFICIENT TO COMPLETE PASSPORT ISSUANCE -- AFTER WHICH THE TRAVELER HAD TO APPEAR BEFORE IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES TO HAVE STATUS CONFIRMED AND STAY EXTENDED.

3. NO PASSPORT WAS REQUIRED FOR USC TRAVELERS TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FROM 1947 UNTIL APRIL, 1974. THE GOTT ASSUMED, THEREFORE, THAT AFTER SUCH A LONG PERIOD OF EASY ADMISSION, THERE WOULD BE A PERIOD WHEN AMERICANS WOULD BE ARRIVING UNAWARE OF THE CHANGES. THERE IS NOT NOW A PROVISION OF LAW WHICH WOULD PRESCRIBE A FINE OR PENALTY FOR AIRLINES WHICH BRING UNDOCUMENTED PASSENGERS, BUT IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW REGULATIONS IN ABOUT APRIL OF 1976 THE IMPOSITION OF AN AIRLINE PENALTY WILL BRING THIS PROBLEM TO A QUICK HALT.

4. MEANWHILE, WE HAVE NOTED INCREASING PROBLEMS WITH UNDOCUMENTED TRAVELERS FROM THE U.S.A. SINCE EARLY DECEMBER 1975. FOR EXAMPLE, INCIDENT ON FEBRUARY 13 INVOLVED AMERICAN COUPLE WHO PURCHASED THEIR TICKETS THROUGH AMERICAN EXPRESS IN PHILADELPHIA AND BOARDED BWIA IN MIAMI. NEITHER AMERICAN EXPRESS NOR BWIA CALLED PASSPORT REQUIREMENT TO TRAVELERS' ATTENTION. UPON ARRIVAL IN TRINIDAD, THEY WERE REFUSED ENTRY.

5. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IS GEARING UP FOR ITS HUGE PRE-LENTEN CARNIVAL SEASON. NEWSPAPER REPORTS INDICATE THAT IN ADDITION TO SCHEDULED AIRLINES PUTTING ADDITIONAL PLANES ON THIS RUN, A NUMBER OF SPECIAL CHARTERED FLIGHTS WILL BE BRINGING ADDITIONAL TRAVELERS BEGINNING FEB 20.

6. IN VIEW OF THIS INFLUX OF VISITORS, IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT ATTEMPT TO IMPRESS UPON PANAM, EASTERN AND BWIA THE NECESSITY THAT TRAVELERS TO TRINIDAD FROM U.S.A. HAVE VALID PASSPORTS. IF POSSIBLE, TRAVEL AGENTS SHOULD ALSO BE CIRCULARIZED. GOTT OFFICIALS HAVE ALMOST REACHED SATURATION POINT WITH UNDOCUMENTED TRAVELERS AND ARE NOT INCLINED TO GRANT FURTHER EXCEPTIONS.

RICH
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PORT O 00414 182158Z

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTO00414
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760061-0159
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760239/aaaabhxx.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PPTE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PORT OF SPAIN 592
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by oatisao>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
TAGS: CPAS, TD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006